

URBAN/MUNICIPAL

CA4 ON HBL029

90 S61

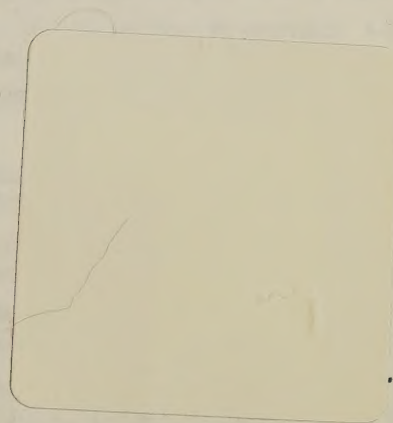
NANCY JACKMAN, GUEST
SPEAKER WOMEN OF THE
YEAR BANQUET THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 1ST, 1990
HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE

CA40N HBL029

90 561

*Return
Helme*

**Nancy Jackman, Guest Speaker
Women of the Year Banquet
Thursday, February 1st, 1990
Hamilton Convention Centre, Ontario**



Check against delivery

• Tonight I am going to tell you how & why I became a feminist philanthropist. The long & the short of it is that most philanthropy upholds the status quo and thereby continues women abuse.

• So women, think twice before you write your usual checks.

• I'll start with becoming a feminist, as that's the hard part. Philanthropist is relatively easy, all you have to have extra money. Feminist ...takes guts!

• I am a feminist because of the relationship I saw and felt between my Mom and my Dad.

• Watching my Mother 'give in' to men [her husband, her sons] made me very angry - angry at my Mom. I couldn't understand why she'd do it! I couldn't understand why she let him do that to her!

• I resented women like her, and had enormous contempt for Mom.

• I was angry at her because she was one of those women who make the compromise of 'giving in' as their way to survive! I was into 'woman blaming', and I believed it was my Mom's fault that things were the way they were. Now, I understand women like her.

• I still don't like what they choose, or are forced to do, amongst the limited options they have.

• I was determined to find another way to survive the patriarchy.

I wasn't going to give in to men.

I wasn't going to be like my Mom! That was on the one hand...

• On the other hand, I'd watch my Dad give praise and prizes to my brothers when they did well at school or in sports. It made me want to be a man. How else was I to get Dad's love?

• I used to dress up as a tramp at halloween, and acted like a tom boy where ever I could. I was one of the first 12 year olds to roll cigarettes in the closet at school. [Thank goodness crack & ice weren't available then.]

• We kept vodka in our cologne bottles, till one day, we were laughing so hard & dancing so fast that a bottle fell, smashing to the floor. I slipped on the Vodka, and got glass in myall the while longing to wear a crinolined dress to the prom!

• Then I woke up in 1968-age 26, with the rising yeast of American feminism! Can you imagine what I looked like, the goddess of Willendorf rising from her sleep....to stand short & heavy amongst the people.

• This growing feminist learning process was & is for me, like coming out again & again, of the Garden of Eden on a lava bed!

• I had been hood winked. I had been wrong.

It was fine being a woman, and it was fine to want the things men had and got.

• I discovered that I didn't want or need an awful lot of what they had! - things like war; abusive, exploitive power; an 8 billion dollar a year federal government subsidy of their businesses.

• I also discovered that I didn't want to be like them, perpetrators of sexual violence in all its forms, from patriarchal religion to incest.

• I didn't want to be the sort of person who would abandon 14 women held at gun point and murdered.

• Did you ever wonder if those men - would have defended their sister students - if Marc Lepine was after their money, and not their bodies?

• Luckily, my rage about all these unjust things worked its way into socially constructive areas &

activities,

that eventually led me to the arenas of philanthropy, equality rights, constitutional law & politics.

- There were 5 things that brought all this together.
- 1. My sense of caring for and protecting those who were 'differently abled' in society was motivated by my sense of being a stuttering, fat child who didn't 'fit in' at school.
- 2. My sense at 26, of being a woman, & knowing how unfair I'd been to myself & to my Mom...and understanding how hard it is to forgive myself for being who I am and doing what I do.
- 3. My mentors, the people who believed & believe in me, and have helped me know that I am worthwhile.
- 4. The United Church removing me from 'the ministry', and my winning legal activity reinstated me. I learnt that I was to the church, like a battered woman is to her lover, I kept going back and back - for more and more hatred and exploitation.
- 5. My Dad's death and the breakup of the family holding company, the point at which I got control over my wealth.

- The activity with the church & my brothers involved me with competent lawyers & I won. I realized that the law was a mighty useful tool, and one that would help me, as a woman get my rights, and help others get theirs.

- Then Trudeau brought back the constitution, introduced a Charter of Rights & Freedoms, and politicians almost sold our equality rights down the kitchen drain, just like they so easily have in the Meech Lake Accord.

- I got involved in the political conflict to ensure women's equality rights in the Charter in 1981, and haven't stopped since.

- Our equality rights are still so precious and fragile, inspite of support from the Supreme Court of Canada.

- Since 1984, I've been part of LEAF's equality activity. LEAF's activity of changing government legislation through negotiation & court action.

- LEAF has been tremendously successful and thanks in part to some funding by the Peterson and Mulroney governments.

- Did you know that in the last 12 months LEAF helped win decisions that guarantee: •-sexual harassment is sex discrimination & illegal.

- if you're the biological parent of a baby, you can get 10 weeks parental leave from UIC - on top of the 15 weeks maternity leave.

- single mothers can't be thrown off social assistance because they're in relationship with a male.

- if you're pregnant & get fired or lose a promotion you can challenge your employer, as pregnancy discrimination is sex discrimination is illegal.

- if you're raped, you no longer have to have your name published in the media.

I've had alot of fun being part of these legal changes, but at my age, I am not going to become a lawyer, so I reckon I'll become a politician. If I am not going to litigate, I'll legislate!

So here I am at 48, wanting to make good, just & fair law. Law that respects people and moves this province, country & planet towards equality for women and survival of all species.

- Whatever talents you have use them for women.

.....

- But what about the money, the philanthropy - you ask

- My money enables me to do what I want to do.
- I could have given money to traditional charities, like art galleries, hospitals & Stratford but why would I give my money to places that uphold hatred of women, and are reluctant to acknowledge, understand or change that, and still like cutting our breasts off, on stage & off!
- Heck, I was going to give my money to groups and organizations that improved the lot of women!
- Men have plenty of money, & women who have a little or a lot of extra money have a double obligation to give their charitable dollars to women.
- Many many women have given their estates or portions thereof, to charities like the Hamilton Foundation, without making legally binding trusts, to ensure that women's money goes to women and girls, rather than working, once again for men, against women!
- I can't say what percentage of grants from the Hamilton Foundation go to specifically improve the lot of women & girls. Perhaps it's 5%. But the Hamilton Foundation is to be congratulated, for the support they do give, as it's much greater than the national average.
- The national statistic is that less than 2% of all Foundation grants in Canada go to women and girls work.....and this statistic has not changed within the last 10 years, in spite of the U.N. decade for women, in spite of government financial & educational support.
- Less than 2% means that out of nearly two hundred million dollars given every year by foundations in Canada, approximately \$3 & a half million goes to women & girls.
- \$3 1/2 million out of \$200 million.
- Many of these foundation funded women's & girl's projects, are service oriented. They do little or nothing to wipe out systemic discrimination in Canada, in fact, they support the status quo.
- We need wealthy and not so wealthy women to support those feminist charities, like LEAF, the Canadian Women's Foundation that are using 'the system to change the system'.
- We need women to support women.
 - 98% of publically tracked donations in this country go to men and boys.
 - 'We know that no one is going to help us but ourselves.
 - 'Secretary of State isn't going to be there forever.
 - 'We need money to do the things we need to do, whether it's about peace, environment, pornography or housing.
 - We do not need more women, unthinkingly leaving their monies to charities controlled by men & women - who are not feminist, and do not understand the pervasive hatred of women in Canada -
 - + that allows & encourages government cuts to the disadvantaged,
 - +that says the Montreal massacre was a one time incident,
 - +that allows women's underwear, full of peanut butter and ketchup, to be tacked up in university cafeterias.
 - Unless there is a fundamental shift in the thinking of charity's trustees in favour of women & girls, don't give them your money, please, don't give them your money.
- Use your money to do something different.
- Make sure who is going to control it, and how it's going to be used, & tie it up legally. We've trusted before, and lost.
- I want women to give, but not as we have historically done, that is to give, & give & give.
- Use your money to heal the world for we women are most conscious of the miracle of life and its

loss.

- Listen to your own herstory and those of your foremothers, know where you've come from. Tell your daughters and young friends their history. For, in our time, we have the power over what the future of this planet will be.
- We are the women who make the difference! and we're the only ones who will make the difference for women & girls!
- We are the people who year after year are the "women of the years".
- The women we are particularly honouring here tonight have taken their talents and made wonderful contributions that have enriched our world. • Let's be like them. Let's listen to their stories of why they've done what they've done, and honour and thank them in their own right.

Thank you.



3 2022 21335173 3



0 65800 06237 5

Library
12580